



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY PHYSICAL DISABILITY AGENCY  
COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)  
200 STOVALL STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22332-0470

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Combat-Related Special  
Compensation Division


To Veterans Administration (VA) or Local Military Treatment Facility (MTF) Doctor:

This retired veteran has submitted a claim for benefits under the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) program and has not been able to produce evidence that we can use to substantiate the claim. DOD guidelines do not allow us to accept personal or buddy statements and only allow us to use official documentary evidence (i.e. VA decisions, sick call slips, letters, or consultation documents from their doctor at an MTF or the VA medical facilities). The purpose of this letter is to explain the intent of your patients' appointment.

The number one reason CRSC denies a claim is due to a lack of combat-related evidence supporting that injury or illness. We do not possess the official documentation that tells us "how" the veteran got the injury/illness. It is our hope that as a medical professional you are able to assist by going through this veteran's medical history and proof, to verify how the injury or illness was incurred. We have been informed by the VA and by medical professionals that if the retiree is able to provide the VA or primary care doctor at a local military treatment facility (MTF) with their current medical documentation, proof of assignment when injury occurred (i.e. 2-1/2A orders, NCOERS, OERS or anything else to prove assignment to injury timing), their personal history statement, and possibly a buddy statement, then the VA or MTF doctor may be able to attribute the injury or illness to a combat-related incident. If the doctor is willing to document a simple medical consultation form or a letter that states "how" the injury was incurred, then we are authorized to use such documentation to substantiate this claim.

Under the CRSC program, a combat-related injury or illness can be any injury or illness that results by the means of **Hazardous Service (HS)** (i.e. aerial flight, parachute duty, demolition duty, experimental stress duty, and diving duty); **Simulations of War (SW)** (i.e. FTX, Special Forces training exercises, combat confidence course or lanes training, or other named training exercises which are used to prepare for combat); injury or illness incurred by **Instrumentalities of War (IN)** (i.e. tanks, Agent Orange, grenade simulators, military planes, and other items unique to the military); and of course, injuries or illnesses which are the result of **Armed Combat (AC)** - directly or indirectly (i.e. Purple Heart (PH) injuries or secondary conditions as a result of the injury).

Thank you for helping us to reward our Retired Veterans the benefits they have earned.

  
John F. Sackett  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Chief, Combat-Related  
Special Compensation Division